

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 1085: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3461, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

NOVEMBER 14, 2007

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 1095: Motion to Adjourn. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

DECEMBER 6, 2007

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 1141: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2085. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber last night and this morning. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 1163 through 1176.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE "PARTNERSHIP FOR A DRUG-FREE AMERICA" ON THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to ask my colleagues to take a moment to honor one of our most successful and important educational campaigns, the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, for 20 years of outstanding service.

Best known for its national drug-education campaigns, the Partnership for a Drug-Free America continues its mission to reduce illicit drug use in America by uniting communications professionals, renowned scientists, and parents.

What began in 1986 as a 3-year endeavor to "unsell" drugs to the American public, has turned into the largest public service campaign in our Nation's history. The pro bono work of some of the country's best advertising agencies across all forms of media has allowed the Partnership's anti-drug message to reach the public on local and national levels for the past two decades.

The organization first entered the wider public consciousness in 1987, with its "This is Your Brain on Drugs" broadcast and print public service announcements, which used the analogy that if a person's brain were an egg, using drugs would be like frying that egg. Another PSA featured a television, a trip to Paris, and a new car all disappearing right under the nose of a cocaine user. Still another that year focused on how a drug-induced high is like diving into an empty swimming pool. All these commercials and print campaigns were praised in a speech given to those involved executively with PDFA by then-President George H.W. Bush in late 1989.

Since then, the Partnership has grown from simple advertising into a drug prevention and treatment resource. Parents and caregivers can request materials and teaching aids that they can use to effectively address drug and alcohol abuse with their children. A major new initiative now unfolding integrates the latest science and research with the most effective traditional media and digital communication techniques to give parents the tools, resources and support they need to help their children lead healthy lives. This effort—the first ever for the Partnership—will include a Web-based interactive information resource center, parent-to-parent support network, a national toll-free call center and user-friendly online/offline tools.

Time and time again, the Partnership proves that the media industry can play a very positive role in influencing our young people to turn away from drugs. Fueled by their educational programs and grassroots community outreach efforts, the use of illicit drugs across the country has fallen by almost a third. Adolescent drug use alone is down by 19 percent in just the past 4 years and 32 percent since its inception.

To celebrate the accomplishments and longevity of the organization, the Partnership will kick off its 20th anniversary at its annual gala being held on November 27, 2007 at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City. The Partnership will honor William C. Weldon, chairman and CEO of the Johnson and Johnson Corporation.

In light of this momentous occasion, I congratulate the staff and volunteers of the Partnership for a Drug-Free America on 20 years of influential service to our Nation. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending them for continuing on with their vision to raise awareness on how we can prevent substance abuse in our communities and make America a safer and sober place to live.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN COUCH

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Couch, a community leader from Atascadero, California, on his retirement after 17 years of serving the city, most currently as chief of police.

Chief Couch grew up in North Dakota. After graduating high school in 1970, Chief Couch enlisted in the United States Army and was stationed in Vietnam, serving with the 114th Assault Helicopter Company. He completed his service with the Army in 1973 and enrolled in California State University, Sacramento, where he earned his degree in criminal justice administration in 1977. After his graduation, Chief Couch worked for the city of Santa Clara Police Department for 13 years and achieved the rank of sergeant. Since 1990, Chief Couch has served in the Atascadero Police Department.

Chief Couch was elevated to the rank of chief on October 7, 2004. During his tenure, he has instituted many improvements to the police department. For example, Chief Couch facilitated the purchase of additional motorcycles for the Traffic Division and added com-

puters and in-car video to all Atascadero Police Department patrol vehicles. He improved the efficiency of law enforcement in Atascadero by creating a special enforcement team, upgraded the capabilities in dispatch, made technical improvements to the radio repeater system, and implemented a crime free multi-housing program and a new traffic safety program. Chief Couch also succeeded at improving the police department retention and recruitment process and the department's relations with the community it serves by expanding community outreach and education programs.

Community service is a central priority for Chief Couch even in his off-duty life. Chief Couch is a member of the Atascadero Kiwanis Club. He also serves on the local board of directors for both the Women's Shelter and the Salvation Army. Finally, in addition to serving as chief of police, John is the chief driver and mechanic of the bus for the Atascadero Bible Church.

Chief Couch and his wife Margie have been married for 25 years and have raised two children, Brittany and Jared.

Dedicated to serving his community in a variety of ways, Chief Couch's leadership at the Atascadero Police Department will be sorely missed and difficult to replace, but his well-deserved retirement will give him the ability to spend more time with friends and family. I commend his service to the City of Atascadero and I hope that Chief Couch enjoys his transition into the next stage of his life.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. CAMP of Michigan. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate and pay tribute to the Midland High School football team for reaching the Michigan High School Athletic Association 2007 Division Two State Championship game. This was the team's third trip to the state finals since 1990.

The Midland Chemics led most of the hard-fought final game against Detroit Martin Luther King High School. However, King took the lead in the fourth quarter and held off Midland. The game marked the end of a successful season, in which the Chemics finished with an 11–3 record.

A week earlier it was Midland who pulled off the impressive come-from-behind victory, defeating Lowell High School. They scored 24 unanswered points in the second half to win 31–27 and earn their spot in the title game. In the playoffs they also defeated Davison, Bay City Central, and Arthur Hill en route to the finals.

The accomplishments of these student athletes are a testament to the years of hard work and dedication leading up to their playoff run. I commend them on a successful season.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Michigan, I congratulate the Midland High School Football team on their achievements and wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.